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Harold Weisberg
Frederick, Maryland

Dear Harold,

Recently I received a package of letters and other stuff from one Richard Landammaker (sp?---his letter is not in front of me just now) in Houston. One of the items in his package was a letter from you to him in which you lectured him on the futility of excessive political theorizing. He asked me what I thought of his Skull and Bones Society theory, and I gave him a similar lecture---in fact, I referred him to your letter, and that got him a bit exasperated.

Anyway, that packet of material from him reminded me of you so I am writing.

I am back in L.A. Incidentally, before leaving New Jersey and moving back to L.A, which I did 5 months ago, I attended the Hofstra University "1,000 day" conference. In some respects, it was enlightening, but in others it was one of the most depressing four day experiences I have ever had. As you may have heard, many JFK aides were there.

The enlightening part came from the papers I heard delivered on the Missile Crises, and Viet Nam. It really is amazing how Kennedy contrasted sharply with much of the military---and these are scholars talking, who are dealing with the latest publicly available stuff at the JFK library.

The depressing part was to see how all conspiracy theories were put down, in a very emphatic way, by Herbert Parmet, the moderator. I also managed to pidgeon hole Bundy, Burke Marshall, and Heller---none of them will discuss the assassination, and I felt very personally offended and upset by the whole thing.

For them it was Camelot, and they don't care about how it ended. Just that it was there.

More often than not, I heard the familiar refrain: "You can't bring him back, so whats the use", to which I responded: "I'm not conducting a ressurection, but an investigation."

Anyway, Parmets podium responses were so irritating, that I approached him later, and he agreed to meet with me at his home. Just before I left for L.A., a friend of mine and I spent about 4 hours with him. He seemed much more reasonable and sympathetic in the privacy of his home. But I'd be interested in seeing if his public responses would be any different, should he chair another symposium.

Harold, and I know you are not in the greatest of health. But I am going to ask if you could help me in two small ways which would be important to a sequel I am writing to Best Evidence.

I have two requests.

1. Back in 1978, when the FBI released all that material, it was interesting to see how the FBI created internal documents responding to books written in the 1966 time frame---specifically, to allegations in Whitewash, and in Inquest. And those memos contained valuable material.

I have not filed any FOIA requests since Best Evidence was published. Time has passed. There has been plenty of time for them to generate internal documents addressing various issues raised, and I wonder whether it would be wise for me to file such a request.

I'm curious whether you would happen to know, from your own extensive dealings with the FBI and the FOIA, what the situation is these days with regards to any such internal documents.

Specifically, how much time must pass before such FBI documents become available, in a manner similar to the way internal FBI stuff on your books became available, back in 1978?

Second, do you happen to know whether the FBI is still critiquing assassination books as they did then? And, if they are, have they changed the rules so that they can generate such material, yet keep it away from inquiries made under FOIA?

Any thoughts you have on the matter would be appreciated.

Request #2.---a search for a specific FBI document

I know that you have a mind that, in some respects, is like a card catalogue, so I'd like to know if the following description of an FBI document rings a bell, and if you can either help me locate it, or send it to me should you have it, and if it is easily retrievable

Somewhere in the FBI investigation is a document of an FBI interview in which some paramilitary type (e.g., a David Ferrie type, but not necessarily Ferrie, although possibly Ferrie, I'm not sure) is interviewed. This paramilitary type person explains his gun toting activities by saying he's a writer, gathering material for a book. The FBI has either a cover page, or a notation, which says in effect: "Well, thats what he says, but we think he's CIA."

Does this ring a bell? And can you help me locate this document? If you have it, and send it to me, I'll gladly send you back a check to cover xeroxing and full mailing costs, plus a premium for your time.

If my description sounds incomplete or fragmentary, its because thats all I have, and I would appreciate any information you can extend in obtaining this particular FBI document. Thanks.

Sincerely,

David David